

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1296

By Burchett

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Haywood Harris of Knoxville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Haywood Harris; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harris was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, for nearly fifty years, Haywood Harris was a valued member of the University of Tennessee (UT) Athletics Department; he was first appointed as the Sports Information Director in January of 1961 and also served as the Assistant Athletics Director and the Associate Athletics Director of Media Relations prior to his retirement in 2000; and

WHEREAS, following his retirement, Mr. Harris continued to work on a part-time basis as the Executive Assistant to the Athletics Director at Tennessee, maintained his football and basketball game management duties, and worked as an archivist and historian for the athletics department; and

WHEREAS, born in Maryville on August 26, 1929, Haywood Harris was a 1947 graduate of Knoxville High School and graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1951, whereupon he gained employment at *The Knoxville Journal* and, later, *The Charlotte Observer*, before becoming UT's alumni field secretary in 1959; and

WHEREAS, his was a familiar voice to many Volunteer fans, as he could be heard on the football press box public address system and as the co-host, alongside Gus Manning, of one of the nation's longest sports radio programs, "The Locker Room"; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. Harris was chosen by *Inside Sports* magazine as one of the top five publicists in the nation, gained recognition as one of the top 100 outstanding graduates of Knoxville High School, received the Arch Ward Award, earned a Chancellor's Citation for Extraordinary Service to UT, and gained inclusion into the College Sports Information Directors of America Hall of Fame, the Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame, the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, and the Tennessee Sports Writers Association Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Haywood Harris and Gus Manning also co-authored two books: *Six Seasons Remembered: The National Championship Years of Tennessee Football* and *Once a Vol, Always a Vol*; and

WHEREAS, a longtime jogger, Mr. Harris also enjoyed playing tennis, gardening, reading, and listening to country music, especially the songs of Loretta Lynn and Dolly Parton; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harris was an active and devout member of the Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church, which he served faithfully for many years as a deacon; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Haywood Harris enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Carolyn Jo West Harris, and was the proud father of Carol Mayshark, Jimmy Harris, and Mike Harris; and

WHEREAS, he will be sorely missed by his four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Haywood Harris leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Haywood Harris, reflecting fondly upon his

impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Harris.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.